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Identical letters dated 11 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 June 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning an assault on an Iraqi fishing boat in Iraqi territorial waters by a patrol of the Kuwaiti regime on 2 June 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 11 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I wish to inform you that at 1500 hours on 2 June 2000 the Iraqi boat *Fatimah* (No. 230) was attacked by a patrol of the Kuwaiti regime consisting of one naval craft with five soldiers on board armed with carbines and side arms and with a PKC machine-gun. They struck the 12 members of the crew with a length of cable and, for no reason, ordered the master, Mr. Abd al-Mahdi Shuhayb Ahmad, to lower the Iraqi flag. When the master and the crew members refused to obey the order of the Kuwaiti regime's patrol, the soldiers fired shots at them, breaking the cabin windows. They confiscated the boat's papers and the crew's fishing permits before leaving for Kuwaiti territorial waters. The fishing boat had been operating inside Iraqi territorial waters in the area of buoy 13 in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway.

The action of the Kuwaiti authorities in entering our territorial waters to assault Iraqi fishermen there is a manifest breach of Iraq's sovereignty and an act of armed aggression that, by the most elementary standards governing relations between States, constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions that reject the threat or use of force against the integrity and independence of any country. We protest against the hostile conduct of the Kuwaiti authorities, and we urge you to intervene in order to prevent these violations, namely entry into Iraq's territorial waters and the perpetration of such acts of provocation. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves in full the inalienable right accorded to it by the Charter of the United Nations and international conventions to take whatever measures are necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the material and other damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq